

Preface

Locutions involving the propositional attitudes (e.g., ‘Smith believes that...’) or modal terms (e.g., ‘It is necessary that...’) have long been recognised as creating contexts which appear to violate several standard logical principles. However, it was only with the development of formal logical systems in the early part of the twentieth century that a rigorous and systematic investigation of these problems was possible. Since then, various intensional logics, along with several rival approaches, have been created with a view to explaining these difficulties. It is the aim of this book to explore and evaluate those accounts which (I believe) have played a central role in attempting to deal with the said difficulties. In part, it is my hope that this work may be taken as something of a primer for the study of intensionality; the sort of primer which appears to have not been available up until now. However, the following work also sets out to be both critical and constructive. Each theory of intensionality which is discussed is done so from a critical point of view, while I also present what I take to be the best means of solving the problems of intensionality.

The following is an expanded (and hopefully improved) version of my Ph.D. thesis, entitled *Intensional Logics and Their Rivals*. I wish to express my gratitude to Dr. Dominic Hyde who supervised the writing of this thesis. He regularly went far beyond the call of duty to help an often bewildered author see a way forward. His advice, the generous amount of time which he allowed me, and his sharp analytical thinking, all helped to make the following work far better than it would have otherwise been. I would like also to express my gratitude to Prof. William Lycan and Emeritus Professor Chris Mortensen who both reviewed my thesis. They provided many thoughtful comments and criticisms. Thanks are due to the staff and students from the School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry at the University of Queensland who provided help along the way. Thanks are also due to Ilaria Walker at Springer for her editorial assistance. Finally, I wish to acknowledge the love and support shown to me by my family during the writing of this book. They were often called upon to tolerate an author who was distracted and usually temperamental. I wish to especially acknowledge the help (and hindrance) provided by

the feline members of the family: Casper, Charlie, Cooper, Cody, Cleo, Cindy, Cinnamon and Little Girl.

Although philosophers are usually quite intelligent people, they sometimes do unintelligent things. One of the most prominent is their failure to respect the use/mention distinction in their work. Be this as it may, when outlining the various theories of intensionality in this book I have generally adopted the use/mention conventions employed by the respective theorists. Also, I have done my best to present the work of each theorist using a notation which is stylistically similar to, if not the same as, that in which the respective theories were originally stated.

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A Critical Survey

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